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Assembly
California Legislature



JOAN BUCHANAN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTEENTH DISTRICT

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BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE ON
BUDGET PROCESS, OVERSIGHT
& PROGRAM EVALUATION

July 10, 2012

Ms. Cindy Messer
Delta Plan Program Manager III
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Supporting Definition of Bethel Island as a Legacy Community

Dear Ms. Messer,

I have the honor of representing Bethel Island in the California State Assembly and am writing in support of defining all of Bethel Island as a Legacy Community. This would be consistent with the Delta Reform Act of 2009, which did include the entire island as a Legacy Community, as well as with the Delta Protection Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan.

As is noted in the plan, the Legacy Communities are integral to the cultural fabric of the Delta. These towns provide key services and support functions for surrounding residents and businesses, serve as important visitor waypoints, offer unique cultural activities, and lend great character to the Delta as a place. These communities have existed to support agriculture and recreation activities in the Delta, and until recently have been economically sustainable in their own right. However, demographic, economic, and land use trends have changed these communities considerably—some to the extent that visible signs of underutilization and decline are prevalent—and continued evolution of economics and public policy in the Delta will greatly affect their ability to thrive in the future.

Furthermore, a primary aspect of sustainability planning for the Delta's Legacy Communities is the notion of enhancing legacy themes and creating better awareness of each of these distinctive communities. It is contemplated that promoting the uniqueness of these communities, in combination with strategic investments, will attract new residents, businesses, and visitors, thereby stimulating overall economic health and sustainability.

On behalf of my constituents and the community of Bethel Island, I urge the Delta Stewardship Council to support the designation of the entire island of Bethel Island as a Legacy Community, for the sake of the community's future economic sustainability and the well-being of residents.

Sincerely,

Joan Buchanan
Assemblymember, 15th District